

WHEREAS, The reimbursement rates for community-based services paid with Maryland Medical Assistance Program funds and by the Developmental Disabilities Administration and the Mental Hygiene Administration may no longer be sufficient to pay competitive salaries to staff; and

WHEREAS, The State budget has not provided a cost-of-living adjustment for community programs funded by the Developmental Disabilities Administration since FY 1989 and by the Mental Hygiene Administration since FY 1991; and

WHEREAS, The adequacy of reimbursement rates for these community-based service providers has been an ongoing and unresolved issue for many years and there remains the need to address the issue in a comprehensive, equitable, and objective manner; now, therefore,

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article - Health - General

SUBTITLE 8. COMMUNITY SERVICES REIMBURSEMENT RATE COMMISSION.

13-801.

(A) IN THIS SUBTITLE THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED:

(B) "COMMISSION" MEANS THE COMMUNITY SERVICES REIMBURSEMENT RATE COMMISSION.

(C) "PROVIDER" MEANS A COMMUNITY-BASED AGENCY OR PROGRAM FUNDED:

(1) BY THE DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES ADMINISTRATION TO SERVE INDIVIDUALS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES; OR

(2) BY THE MENTAL HYGIENE ADMINISTRATION TO SERVE INDIVIDUALS WITH MENTAL DISORDERS.

(D) "RATE" MEANS THE REIMBURSEMENT RATE PAID BY THE DEPARTMENT TO A PROVIDER FROM STATE GENERAL FUNDS, MARYLAND MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FUNDS, OTHER STATE OR FEDERAL FUNDS, OR A COMBINATION OF THOSE FUNDS.

13-802.

(A) THERE IS A COMMUNITY SERVICES REIMBURSEMENT RATE COMMISSION.

(B) THE COMMISSION IS AN INDEPENDENT UNIT THAT FUNCTIONS IN THE DEPARTMENT.

13-803.

(A) THE COMMISSION SHALL CONSIST OF SEVEN MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR WITH THE ADVICE AND CONSENT OF THE SENATE.